

TAB A

DISCONTINUANCE OF TDY PER DIEM

PROBLEM: By law and a long standing series of Comptroller General Decisions, Governmental Agencies are precluded from paying newly recruited employees cost of transportation of themselves, dependents and household effects from their homes to point of first assignment. An exception is made in the case of employees recruited for overseas duty brought to Washington for a period of training enroute to their overseas assignment. Due to the clearly established limitation on the payment of transportation, etc., in connection with the initial assignment of new employees, it is only natural that assignment of new employees recruited for overseas duty after payment of travel expenses and per diem PCS Washington may raise a question as to whether the initial intent was in fact to assign the employee overseas or was merely so stated in order to circumvent law and regulations with respect to limitations on payment of travel expense to point of first assignment.

DISCUSSION: A large number of individuals initially recruited are recruited against overseas slots. Frequently, after a period of training, at Headquarters, it is determined that the individual is not acceptable for overseas assignment, or that the vacancy for which he was recruited is no longer in existence, or that, for various reasons, it is preferable to assign him to a Headquarters position. It has been the experience of the Finance Division that there has been a reluctance or delay on the part of the operating offices to formalize these determinations and to request the discontinuance of per diem after it has been decided that the individual will not go overseas. In the absence of contrary information the Finance Division must accept the original travel order as a statement of intent until it is amended and, likewise must accept a per diem claim signed by an individual and approved by an authorized approving officer as "prima facie" evidence that the intent to assign the individual overseas has not changed. There are indications that many claims have been submitted for periods after the intent has actually been changed.

RECOMMENDATION: [REDACTED] requires that the operating office concerned take positive action to amend the travel order and discontinue per diem when it is determined that the individual will not proceed to an overseas post. It appears necessary that positive internal procedures of the offices concerned be strengthened to enforce this requirement of the regulation.

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